

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 7, 8, 10, 13 and 16, and cancel claims 9 and 14, as set forth in the listing of claims that follows, which will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A pyromechanical securing element for mechanical connection of two components, said securing element comprising:

a generally cylindrical covering, including an expandable head part;
a pyrotechnic propellant charge disposed within said head part, which

borders on an adapter; and

stop means disposed on a rear part of the covering distal said head part for registering with concentric through passages in adjacent first and second components to be interconnected, wherein the covering, at its head part, has frangible break notches running in longitudinal direction operable to tear open the covering in the head region upon ignition of the propellant charge to bend separated head part portions around the adapter, as a result of which the first component is firmly connected to the second component, wherein

- the adapter defines a groove extending about the outer periphery thereof,
- the covering defines, a radially projecting collar arranged on the outer surface of the covering, said collar defining said stop means,
- the groove in the adapter is aligned with the collar of the covering, and
- at least one part of the collar is pressed into the groove to anchor the covering with the adapter and

wherein the outer surface of the covering has an at least 3-surface shape after pressing in.

8. (Currently Amended) The securing element of claim 7, wherein the groove ~~in the~~ extends circumferentially about the adapter and the collar ~~of the~~

~~covering are designed to be rotating on the particular outer periphery~~ extends circumferentially about the covering.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The securing element of ~~claim 9~~ claim 7, wherein the covering has a square shape with preferably beveled corners after pressing in.

11. (Previously Submitted) The securing element of claim 7, wherein the covering is formed from metal.

12. (Previously Submitted) The securing element of claim 7, wherein the adapter is substantially cylindrical.

13. (Currently Amended) A pyromechanical securing element for mechanical interconnection of two components, said securing element comprising:

a generally cylindrical ~~housing~~ covering which is substantially closed at one end thereof to define an expandable head portion;

a generally cylindrical ~~closure member~~ adapter slidably disposed within said ~~housing~~ covering, said ~~closure member~~ adapter defining first and second axially spaced large diameter portions and an intermediate reduced diameter portion; and

a pyrotechnic propellant charge disposed in said head portion intermediate said closed end and said ~~closure member~~ adapter,

wherein said ~~housing~~ covering defines a radially thickened collar portion which is axially aligned with the reduced diameter portion of said ~~closure member~~ adapter and ~~extends~~ is locally displaced radially inwardly to effect a ~~swedge-like~~ fixed engagement therebetween, and

wherein said thickened collar portion defines a plurality of circumferentially arranged radially outwardly extending flats on the outer surface thereof defining axial stops.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Submitted) The securing element according to claim 13, further comprising notches formed in said head part to effect predetermined expansion thereof upon combustion of said propellant charge.

16. (Currently Amended) The securing element according to claim 13, further comprising an axial spacing intermediate said ~~closure member~~ adapter and said propellant charge.